



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
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www.bpm.ca.gov

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS FOR A PODIATRIC MEDICAL LICENSE

To be eligible for a license to practice podiatric medicine in California, you must graduate from an approved college or school of podiatric medicine. Currently, seven colleges are approved:

- (1) California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt College, Oakland, California;
- (2) Barry University, Miami Shores, Florida;
- (3) Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Finch University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School, Chicago, Illinois;
- (4) University of Osteopathic Medicine & Health Sciences, College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Des Moines, Iowa;
- (5) New York College of Podiatric Medicine, New York, New York;
- (6) Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio;
- (7) Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In addition, you must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Pass all sections of parts I, II, and III of the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) examination **within the last ten years**.
- (2) Successfully complete 12 months of approved residency training. **Effective January 1, 1998**, only residency programs that include at least some podiatric surgery will satisfy requirements for licensure.
- (3) Submit fingerprint cards and obtain criminal record clearance from the state Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. (Applicants in proximity to California may opt to obtain clearances utilizing the Live Scan method.)
- (4) Provide license verification from all states or countries in which a medical license has been held.

- (5) Request a disciplinary databank report from the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards be sent to the directly to the BPM.

RESIDENT'S LICENSE FOR POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

You must obtain a Resident's license for participation in any postgraduate training program in California. Only programs conducted entirely on federal reservations, such as Veterans' Administration facilities, are exempt from this requirement.

A Resident's license is issued by the Board of Podiatric Medicine (BPM) for participation in a specific training program for a specific one-year period. The license may be renewed for continued participation in training programs for up to four years. Before the license can be reissued for a third or fourth year, however, you must obtain a permanent license by meeting all requirements, including passage of the NBPME Part III examination.

Resident's license requirements include graduation from an approved college of podiatric medicine and passage of Parts I and II of the NBPME examination. You must also obtain state and federal fingerprint clearances prior to the issuance of the Resident's license.

With a Resident's license, you may participate in rotations beyond the scope of podiatric medicine under appropriate supervision by a licensed physician (MD or DO). A Resident's license allows participation in a specific training program only -- any other activity constitutes criminal unlicensed practice and is vigorously prosecuted.

NBPME PART III EXAMINATION (PMLEXIS)

BPM's oral clinical licensure examination has been replaced with the NBPME Part III examination (formerly known as PMLexis). The Chauncey Group offers this examination in June and December each year. Applications must be received by the board at least 60 days prior to the examination. **Part III registration forms, including exam fees, must also be received by the Chauncey Group 60 days prior to the examination.** Please see the enclosed Candidate Bulletin for further information regarding the examination. You may also access exam information through NPMBE's website at www.nbpme.info.

PERMANENT LICENSE

Following completion of all licensure requirements, you will be issued an initial permanent license for a period of 12 to 24 months, expiring after the second occurrence of your birthdate. After this initial period, the license can be renewed every two years by submitting a renewal fee and certifying completion of continuing competence requirements. A renewal form will be sent to your address of record approximately two months prior to your license expiration date. At the time of your first renewal, completion of your residency program satisfies continuing medical education (CME) renewal requirements.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

The scope of practice of a doctor of podiatric medicine is defined in the California Business and Professions Code:

"Podiatric medicine" means the diagnosis, medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative, and electrical treatment of the human foot, including the ankle and tendons that insert into the foot and the nonsurgical treatment of the muscles and tendons of the leg governing the functions of the foot.

DPMs are prohibited by law from performing total amputations of the foot, and administering general anesthetics.

ANKLE SURGERY

Passage of BPM's oral clinical examination after January 1, 1984, or passage of NBPME's Part III exam authorizes you to perform ankle surgery.

CONTINUING COMPETENCE

You must certify completion of continuing competence requirements at the time of each permanent license renewal. Requirements are:

- (1) Completion of at least 50 hours of approved continuing medical education during the two-year period prior to renewal. Twelve hours must be subjects related to the lower extremity muscular skeletal system. Completion of an approved residency program is credited for 50 CME units for the first license renewal.
- (2) Meeting one of the following:
 - (a) passage of an exam administered by the board (past 10 years).
 - (b) passage of an exam administered by an approved specialty board (past 10 years).
 - (c) current diplomate, eligible, or qualified status granted by an approved specialty board (past 10 years).
 - (d) recertification by an approved specialty board (past 10 years).
 - (e) completion of an approved residency/fellowship (past 10 years).
 - (f) granting/renewal of privileges by a health care facility approved by a federal or state agency (past 5 years).
 - (g) completion of an extended course of study approved by the board (past 5 years).
 - (h) Passage of Part III exam administered by the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (past 10 years).

You must maintain records of all CME courses attended for a minimum of four years. The board conducts a yearly random audit to ensure compliance.

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

In addition to licensure by the BPM, you must obtain certification from other state and federal agencies.

CERTIFIED RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

In California, a DPM may not use or supervise the use of x-rays on humans without certification from the state Department of Health Services as an x-ray supervisor and operator. Employment of a certified radiological technologist or a limited permit x-ray technician to operate the equipment does not satisfy x-ray certification requirements. For information contact the Department of Health Services, Radiological Health Branch, P.O. Box 942732, MS 178, Sacramento, CA 94234-7320, (916) 322-2073.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

You must register with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to administer, prescribe, or dispense any controlled substance. A permanent podiatric medical license is required to obtain a DEA registration number. To obtain an application call (888) 304-3251. The DEA has three locations serving California. Please contact our office for information on the office serving your area.

TRIPPLICATE PRESCRIPTIONS

For information on triplicate prescriptions, contact the state Department of Justice, PO Box 160447, Sacramento, CA 95816, (916) 227-4050.

FICTITIOUS NAME PERMITS

To practice under a fictitious business name, you must obtain a permit from the Medical Board of California (MBC). Fictitious names must meet legal requirements. Contact the MBC, Fictitious Name Permit Unit, 1430 Howe Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 263-2384.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

Effective January 1, 1986, section 11166 of the Penal Code requires any child care custodian, medical practitioner, nonmedical practitioner, or employee of a child protective agency who has knowledge of or observes a child in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment who he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and to prepare and send a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving information concerning the incident. Failure to comply with the requirements of section 11166 is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to six months in jail or by a fine of one thousand dollars or both.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (CONT')

ADULT ABUSE REPORTING

Doctors and most other health practitioners are required to report actual or suspected abuse of dependent adults including elderly dependent adults. Reports must be made whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect abuse is present including physical or mental abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, intimidation, deprivation of nutrition or medical care, financial abuse, or other forms of mistreatment. Reports must be made to an adult protective service agency or a law enforcement agency, and are confidential.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Doctors of podiatric medicine are responsible for being familiar with the laws and regulations governing their profession. These are available on our website. You may also obtain copies of *Laws Relating to the Practice of Physicians and Surgeons and Doctors of Podiatric Medicine* (ISBN: 0-930466-69-2) by contacting LawTech Publishing at (949) 498-4815 or via e-mail at: sales@LawTechPublishing.com. The cost per copy is \$33.88 (includes tax & shipping - credit cards accepted). Changes in laws and regulations may occur annually, so the website is the best source at any point in time.